

# Dig B Plant Hire 'digs' its Bell machines

**The Val de Vie estate is one of the most sought after lifestyle estates in southern Africa. Nestled in a pristine triangle between Paarl, Stellenbosch and Franschhoek in the Cape Winelands, the estate offers secure living in a simply beautiful area, surrounded by mountains.**

As these types of development go, there is always an expansion plan and Val de Vie is no exception. Its La Vue Phases 1 and 2 started in 2016 and here too, newly prepared land ready for constructing more upmarket housing is eagerly awaited.

Preparing this land though is not without challenges and one contractor tasked with the bulk earthworks, roads and services, decided early on to obtain information about the correct tools for preparing the ground that will house the all-important services.

Enrico Bossi is the Managing Director of Dig B Plant Hire, a subsidiary company of Umzali Civils (Pty) Ltd, based in Stellenbosch. After completing his tertiary studies in civil engineering, Enrico worked with civil engineering contractors in both Cape Town and Gauteng. The hunkering to be self-employed never waned and in 2003, he started out on his own.

"We've always concentrated our project efforts here in the Western Cape, although in time we'd like to spread our wings to include the Eastern Cape and even Gauteng," Enrico tells us. "We feel our expertise lies in providing township developers with bulk earthworks, the construction of roads and culverts and the installation of services such as water, drainage and access to power."

Dig B Plant Hire first relied on Bell Equipment when it bought 12 Bell 315SK 4x4 Tractor Loader Backhoes (TLBs). These machines proved themselves to be handy tools for a myriad of tasks on projects for Umzali Civils from trenching and backfilling to loading material and doing housekeeping on building sites. They are also much sought-after on a plant hire basis and earn their keep through long- and short-term rentals.

"When we were awarded the contract for the bulk earthworks and services for the first and second phases of the La Vue extension as well the so-called Gentlemen's Estate, areas that would be accessed via Spine Road, which we will also build, we realised that proper processing of the soil conditions was paramount to the success of our side of the contract," Enrico continues. "We needed to crush and screen the sandstone river-boulder material that lay in the bed of the remnants of the Berg River that runs through the site. The material is not particularly hard and would work well as crusher stone to be used as fill material."

Enrico adds that in addition to the crusher stone, they needed to produce sand as the consulting engineers on the project decreed that this material would be used to bed down the pipes in the services trenches.

"We again turned to Bell Equipment through their Sales Representative, Fiona Johnson, as we believe they could provide the correct tools for not only this project, but lasting solutions to future work with their Finlay machines," he says. "Our Plant Manager, Petrus Groenewald, travelled to Johannesburg where he was given a live demonstration of the machines we were interested in for our purpose and, on his favourable report, we placed our order for a Finlay 683 Supertrak Screen and a Finlay J-1160 Jaw Crusher."

"Another important consideration for us in deciding on these particular machines was that they are marketed by and have the technical back-up of an established company such as Bell Equipment. Apart from the technical expertise and reliable parts holdings that Bell

Equipment has, the company also has a wide national footprint should the machines ever be deployed elsewhere and need parts."

On the La Vue site, the Finlay 683 Supertrak screen is loaded using a wheeled loader, which loads the inclined feed hopper. This inclined feed hopper immediately has oversized material roll off its grizzly onto a discard pile. Other material is then processed to minus 70 sizes as bedding sand. The Finlay J-1160 Jaw Crusher in turn processes much coarser material into G5 and G7 aggregate which is used as fill material. An excavator loading directly off a stockpile of coarse material feeds the Finlay J-1160 Jaw Crusher.

"We're aware that the two Finlay machines are still new but can nonetheless only be impressed by their work-rate and availabilities," Enrico says. "Their efficient production has kept us on track with on-site material supply, which is a big bonus as material does not have to be trucked in from some distance and this is proving to be a saving. We look at the cost per tonne of material processed and what we see is making our clients and us very happy. This augurs well for future work and repeat business as it shows we have the correct tools for the task at hand."



From left: Bokkie Coertze, Schalk Liebenberg, Enrico Bossi and Fiona Johnson in front of Dig B Plant Hire's Finlay Jaw Crusher.

